

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083591 to Geertsma et al., or in the alternative, as being unpatentable over Geertsma in view of U.S. Patent 1,416,199 to Hasselquist, or in the alternative, as being unpatentable over Geertsma in view of Hasselquist, and further in view of WIPO Publication WO 98/08660.

The Geertsma et al. publication discloses a shaving apparatus of the rotary type in which a cutting member includes an annular region 8 with hair-trapping apertures 5. Inside this annular region 8 is a skin support surface 9 having a plurality of ridges 10 formed in an annular region 11 of the skin support surface 9 substantially directly adjacent the annular region 8.

The Examiner has indicated that Geertsma '591 discloses a shaving apparatus "wherein said shaving apparatus further comprises shaving aid additive retaining means (e.g., 9, 10) provided on at least part of said skin contact surface, wherein the shaving aid additive is one of a liquid, a gel, a foam, a cream, a water-soluble hard material (i.e., the shaving aid retaining means of Geertsma '591 is fully capable of accommodating a shaving aid additive including one of those specifically claimed), wherein the shaving aid additive retaining means comprises at least one groove (e.g., the grooves formed between features 10) that prevents the shaving aid additive from entering apertures in the external cutting member (e.g., the grooves of Geertsma '591 channel will

channel the shaving aid and thus prevent it from entering at least some of the apertures formed in the external cuffing member),..."

Applicants submit that the Examiner's statement is just the opposite than that described in Geertsma et al. In particular, on page 1, paragraph [0013] states:

"[0013] FIGS. 2 and 3 show the external cutting member 4 on an enlarged scale. The external cutting member comprises an annular region 8 in which the hair-trapping apertures 5 are present. Inside this annular region 8 there is a decorative cover which serves as a skin support surface 9. A number of ridges 10 are provided on this decorative cover 9. In FIG. 2, the ridges lie in an annular region substantially directly adjacent the annular region with the hair-trapping apertures 5. The skin is supported by the ridges during shaving, so that the frictional resistance between the skin and the decorative cover is smaller than if no ridges were present. Obviously, the ridges may be provided in any location on the surface of the decorative cover. If the ridges are provided in an annular region 11 substantially directly adjacent the annular region 8 with the hair-trapping apertures 5, as shown in FIG. 2, this at the same time has the advantage that the hairs are guided between the ridges 10 during shaving and accordingly enter the hair-trapping apertures 5 more easily. This is effective especially if the hair-trapping openings are formed by slots which are approximately radially directed, as shown in FIG. 2. This leads to a better shaving result."

Applicants submit that if the hairs are "guided between the ridges 10 during shaving and accordingly enter the hair-trapping apertures 5 more easily", then the ridges 10 could not be considered the shaving aid additive retaining means which "comprises at least one groove for preventing the shaving aid additive from entering apertures in the external cutting member when said device for providing the shaving aid additive provides the shaving aid additive during a shaving operation being performed

by said shaving apparatus", since it is known that the shaving aid additive is carried along with the hair.

Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the shaving apparatus of Geertsma should be used at all with a shaving aid additive.

Claim 3 includes the limitation "wherein said shaving aid additive retaining means further comprises at least one ridge extending around a center of the skin contact surface enclosed by the annular cutting member of the at least one cutting unit."

The Examiner has indicated that this is disclosed by Geertsma et al., "e.g., as shown in Fig. 2, Geertsma '591 discloses a plurality of such ridges 10 extending around a center of the claimed skin contact surface)."

Applicants submit that the Examiner's argument does not address the claim limitation. In particular, the claim limitation states "at least one ridge extending around a center of the skin contact surface". In Geertsma et al., none of the ridges 10 extend around the center of the skin contact surface. Rather, the plurality of radial ridges extends around the skin contact surface.

The Hasselquist patent discloses a razor blade guard and face plate, in which the face plate includes circular corrugations.

The Examiner has indicated that it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide an alternate ridge structure such as that taught by Hasselquist '199 on the cover of

the cutting units of Geertsma '591 to gain the well known benefits including those described above.

Applicants submit that the Examiner is mistaken. The Hasselquist found that a smooth face plate tended to adhere to the face of the user, and that by employing circular corrugations on the face plate, "the air has entrance or access between the face and the face plate, hence overcoming or eliminating any such undesirable tendency to suction or adhering action." However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that these circular corrugations should be used as a shaving aid additive retaining means in order to prevent a shaving aid additive from entering the hair cutting apertures.

The WIPO Publication WO 98/08660 teaches a shaving apparatus with three shaving heads, skin contact surfaces surrounding the annular regions of the shaving heads, and skin contact regions enclosed by the annular regions of the shaving heads. To aid in the shaving process, the WIPO publication discloses a holder for an additive or shaving aid, and means for dispensing the shaving aid onto the skin of a user during shaving.

Applicants submit this WIPO publication neither discloses nor suggests the shaving aid additive retaining means as specifically set forth in claims 1 and 3.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious

by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such,
is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing
claims 1 and 3, is now in condition for allowance and such action
is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by /Edward W. Goodman/
Edward W. Goodman, Reg. 28,613
Attorney
Tel.: 914-333-9611